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Twenty-five years after the publication of his landmark racetrack classic, *Laughing in the Hills*



# BILL BARICH'S A Fine Place to Daydream



RACEHORSES, ROMANCE, AND THE IRISH

**“Readers are rewarded on every page,”**

says DENNIS DODGE in a starred review for *Booklist*.


“Bill Barich, formerly of Northern California, moved to Ireland a couple of years ago in the (successful) pursuit of a lady, only to fall in love with her country and her country’s racing as well. We’re talking about racing ‘over the jumps’—chasers and hurdlers—and it is quite different from the ‘flat’ racing Barich was used to.

“It takes him a couple of months to get up to speed, but he is soon following the long winter season as avidly as any native son of the old sod. Everything points to the April festival at Cheltenham and the climactic Cheltenham Gold Cup...

“Barich travels throughout Ireland and Northern England to watch the major contenders and talk to their owners, trainers, and riders, always in search of the key insight that will produce a memorable payday—and the accompanying bragging rights—on Gold Cup Day. Alas, that windfall never materializes, but readers are rewarded on every page.

“With Barich as an ever-amiable companion, the Irish winter passes so pleasantly that one hardly notices how much has been absorbed about the country, its people, and its favorite sport.”

**“Bill Barich should have known better, but he didn’t,  
and he produced a wonderful book as a result.”** —JANE SMILEY

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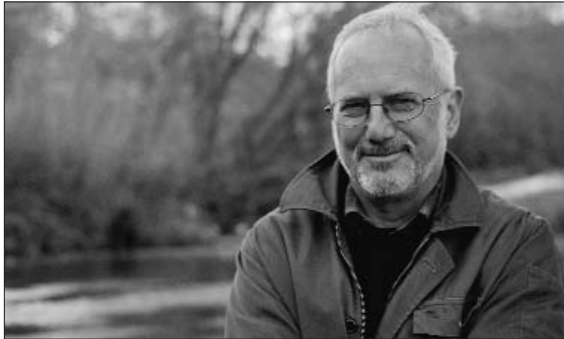
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*David Timmons*

BILL BARICH is the author of six previous books of fiction and nonfiction. Amazon lists *Laughing in the Hills* among its ten best sports books of the twentieth century, while *Sports Illustrated* calls it one of the 100 best of all time. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*, and a literary laureate of the San Francisco Public Library, having lived in the Bay Area for many years before moving to Dublin.

*Author tour:* Lexington KY, Nashville, New York, San Francisco

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